WANTON 13.

TOM:

OR, The MERRY

History

OF

Tom STITCH

The TAYLOR.

Deck'd with such pleasing Pastimes of Delight,
That 'twould invite a Lady, Lord, or Knight
To Read. It is a Gem, a Mine of treasure,
It is Sport and Mirth beyond all Measure.

Licensed, R. L. S.

Printed for *R. Butler*, and Sold by *Richard Kell*, next Door to the Sign of the *Mytre*, in St. *Johns-Street*, 1685.

The Pleasant HISTORY OF Tom Stitch THE TAYLOR.

CHAP. I.

Of *Tom Stitch*'s Parentage and Birth.

In Thred-Needle-street, at the upper end of Thimble-Alley, lived one *William Stitch*, by Profession a Taylor, who had to Wife Nan Needle,

Whom many Men did often Thred:
When they could gain her to their Bed.

[illegible] keeping company with many Men, to get [illegible] at length she gained the French Disease, [illegible] proceeding, she [illegible] her Husband [illegible] and being known among their Customers, [illegible]

fed to see her, and say, She was a hot Needle indeed to burn her Husbands Thred; when her Husband asked them for Work, they answered, No, no, do you think we will be so be our Taylor, who sows with a hot Needle and a burning Thred. In a short time after they were Marry'd, there arose a great contention in between him and his Wife, concerning their Names, she would not have hers buried in so unfortunate a one as his to flourish: her Husband, to save contention, yielded to let her Name be joyned to his, and so was called Sir Needle. Soon after that, she lived a more careless life than heretofore, so that she proved with Child, but her husband in a quarter of a year after died being dead, and she very poor, could not tell whether to go for relief, having scarcely any friends living, that would regard her: the time soon came away, and the day of her delivery was nigh: but for not thinking it so nigh as it was, neglected her to neglect the getting such needful things as one in her condition required; so one night (unexpectedly) she fell in Travel, no one by her but only one Maid, who fetch'd her help the next hours, and then the Midwife, but before before the came, a poor Neighbour had delivered the new-born Babe, which was a Boy. When a Minister was sent for to Baptize the Child, calling after, Named him Tom. Sir

CHAP. II.

[illegible] to Bedtime, and Tom being more [illegible]
to Maggery than ordinary, she was [illegible]
ous to him; for every morning, if he [illegible]
a past 5 of the Clock, she would go up [illegible]
Fidgel in her hand, and pull him out of [illegible]
to, and beat him like a Stock-fish; [illegible]
strike him broke of two's a work, [illegible]
he bows to prevent it; so one morning [illegible]
ning up to his Bed-side in a great rage [illegible]
on him, but he leaped out of the Bed crying,
Mammy that the tears run down his Cheeks,
so the running very eagerly to strike him again,
took up the fore-lappet of his Shirt and wiped
his eyes, which when she beheld, for hope to [illegible]
ly, turning her back to him, and so departed
out of the Room blushing, and never after [illegible]
to the call Tom up.

[illegible] being not contented with what he [illegible]
by some Room contrived a way to be revenged
[illegible] for [illegible] imagin'd she kept company
[illegible] unknown to her Husband
[illegible] to find her out if possible. [illegible]
[illegible] opportunity, one day in the [illegible]
[illegible] the time her washing a clean [illegible]
[illegible] usual,) began to suffered the [illegible]
[illegible] abroad, so after the [illegible]
[illegible] but the Lords of [illegible]

A Woman is a Book, and often found
To prove far better in the sheets than bound.
No wonder then why men take such delight,
Above all things to Study in the Night.

Tom seeing where he went in, returned back to a Bakers shop, and hired a very rich Suit, Coat, Sword, and a Periwig: In this attire he seemed much like a Gentleman to that house where his Mistress went in, and enquires whether that was not a School of Venus, where a Gentleman might have entertainment, to which the Servant reply'd, he might. Then boldly into, entred in, and the first he met there was Cupid, though before cruel Mistris, to whom all the Comforts of life Attended, but her face look'd like Diabolus. A Creature upon her own to conquer her Lovers, that all Gallants desire to overcome her greatest Enemies: [illegible] this made Tom behold her beautiful Face, which was scarcely to be resisted by any Gallant but to be found High-born Spirit, and her self proud, only to admire him: At length the Gentleman, and gave him this Salutation: Sweet Beauteous Sir, [illegible] to partake with one of those Noble Gentlemen

your Majestical presence forceth my tongue
express what my heart thinks, yet I hope
ble Sir, I shall not presume in so high a Ma
but that you will forgive. I shall think m
self happy to be reckon'd in the number
your Servants. He hearing her salute him
his entrance with such inviting expressions
imagin'd what she would be at, so taking
by the hand offered her to be his Pilot into
haven of felicity; she yielded to his requ
and conducted him up stairs into a Chambe
after he had entred the Chamber, he comp
mented her in this sort, Bright Madam,
matchless beauty hath Captivated my sence
and if you will but vouchsafe to honour
with your Sweet and Delightful Compa
I shall think my self more happy than Pa
who enjoy'd the Grecian Queen; to wh
she replyed, Dear Sir, Command me as yo
own, while you remain here, nay, your lo
Looks hath so charmed me, that I could
in your Arms, She yielding up her self
wholly to him, he entertained her with all
choice dainties the house could afford; but as
was taking his repose with her, he slipt
of Scizzers out of his pocket and cut off a
of her new Petticoat, and after he had enjo
her, made what haste he could and bid
the reckoning and departed. At his depar

hoped to have his company there again
a day of the following week, to which he
consented, promising not to fail.

Tom made haft and fhed his cloaths, and
went home laughing to think how he had ferved
his Miftris, & how he could have her at his pleas.

Tom's Miftris after fhe had miffed the piece
of her Petticoat, and thought Tom had been
some Gentleman her Husband had sent (fear-
ing he had heard fhe was there) on purpofe to
betray her (but never thought it was her man
Tom) fhe being her felf a long time, could
not tell what fhe had beft do, sometimes think-
ing one thing, sometimes another, in this per-
plexity, at laft fhe pin'd up her Petticoat, and
refolved to venture home, let what would
be the event; fo home fhe went and found her
Husband fitting by the fire (poor Cuckold)
warming himfelf, not thinking where his wife
had been, or whofe fire had warmed her,
when fhe perceived he was ignorant where
fhe had been, though he made himfelf to ap-
pear, to fear what fhe would fay; he
fitting by the fire very melancholly, as fearing
her husband asked her what made her fo bit-
terly cry? fhe anfwered, fhe had not been well;
the Cuckold (being very kind, as moft are)
defired a Cordial to be made for her. yet fhe
could not be well for a day or 2; Tom taking

no

no notice of her at that time, but at last re
to speak to her in this manner; Good
I am very sorry to see you so Melancho
you have been these last 3 or 4 days, if you
ways discontented, I will venture my
out half your content; or if any body
wrong, I'le spend every drop of blood in my
to right you, so you will but let me know
cause of your being thus sad and sorrowful;
hearing him speak thus to her, (which he
did before) check'd him for his Sawcyness,
ding him begone, which he instantly did,
as he was going out, Though I have
you now, some body else will please you
night, (that being the day he appointed
her,) the hearing him say so, mistrusted he
(having a Guilty Conscience) asked him
was he said? Tom replyed suddenly to
gain, I hope you'le be pleased before night,
though you think I know nothing, yet you
that if I did not know what I do; he
touch'd to the quick, gave him half a Crown
tell her what he meant; this is the thing
meant, said he, and put the piece of
coat out of his Pocket; the pleasing
a piece of Gold, bid him not to tell
hand, hoping he did not know already.
Tom, he was not know, nor I will never
him; when he had promised her not to

him hote he came by it? he answered, I
that cut it off; then she blushing more and
said,

Dear *Tom*,
this secret wilt to none impart,
purse of Gold ile give thee with my heart:
ile kiss & love thee without measure,
study day & night to yield thee pleasure:
ve no power to frown nor angry be,
not resist, do what thou list with me:

Tom hearing this, gave her a Kiss,
first he ran to shut and lock the door,
then did he to her as he had done before;
scene is chang'd, no more in awe he'l stand
now the Man the Mistris doth command.

Tom liked more like her Husband then
Service, having store of choice dainties given
daily to eat, money enough, fine cloaths, his
warmed every night (in the winter time)
when his Master was out of Town) with
Mistris, but unknown to the Maid of his
Service. Tom's Mistris plying
at length his Master took notice of it,
jealous; yet thought 'twas only a fancy
at length 'twas so plain, that he could
take notice of it, and therefore resolved
possible) to find them out; so one day he
that a Lord who lived in the Country,
him for him; to take journey to make

him

him a Suit, and that he was to lye the night; but acquainted the Maid with his (giving her a piece of Gold) charging her of the Clock at night, to open the door w gave but one knock; he hired a horse, and brought to the door, (the better to blind his then mounted and Rid away.

Tom and his Mistris being glad of the portunity thinking themselves safe, at nig went to Bed, and he to her as soon as his Prentice was asleep, and there enjoy'd wish'd desires. But what should prove misshap, at twelve of the Clock her Hus knocked at the Door, and being let in by Maid, went directly up stairs to his Bed-side, drawn the Curtains, and there beld his Wife and his Man Tom circled another's Arms, both being fast asleep, he beheld them lying so lovingly, could contain himself in the bounds of reason, was ready to pull them out of the Bed, pausing a while upon it, resolved to make example of them both, and first of Tom, he had called his Maid up to see, and witness of it, left the room, and left both asleep, so about 2 or 3 of the Clock afternoon the next day, he came home, no notice of what he had seen in the

nexr day in order to Toms punishment; he warned before the Chamberlain, who ed him and his Mistris when they heard wondring that she did not know it; neither of them mistrusting it was for that. But (that morning as he was to appear before Chamberlain) asked her Husband what Tom had done that he should be had before the Chamberlain; to which he replyed, You shall know before night. When the time came, Tom appeared before the Chamberlain, Master made it his complaint of him, Worship Sir, I have warned my man before you, have him severely punished for being so impudent and lawcy as to lye with my Wife; and to prove the truth of it, I have nothing more to say to Witness it, therefore I entreat your Worship to have him punished with all the severity the Law can inflict. The Chamberlain hearing what a fool he was, to proclaim himself a Cuckold, smiled in Conceit, then called Tom and asked him whether that were true which his Master objected against him? To which he answered: If it please your Worship, I cannot deny it; You are, said the Chamberlain, an impudent Rogue; nor, said Tom, such an impudent Rogue as your Worship——— taxes me to be; Come Sirrah, said the Chamberlain, I'le teach you to tell your words closer together.

The

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perceiving Tom to be very Arch, ...
him for lying with his Mistris, telling him ...
a great sin it was, bidding him Fly the ...
graces of his Mistris, as Joseph did: ...
please your Worship, said Tom, if his ...
had been so fair as mine, he would not ...
forborn her: When the Chamberlain ...
this Jest he fell a laughing, (as likewise ...
then were present) and dismist him with ...
Punishment.

Tom's Master seeing him dismist so ...
what haste he could home, and told his ...
ther she let Tom lye with her again ...
turn them both out of doors; but if she ...
promise never to lye with him again, ...
forgive all that was past; yet for all her ...
she could not but love and steal some ...
graces of her pretty Tom.

CHAP. III.

wing how *Tom* was reveng'd on the Maid for not telling him of his Masters design in taking him and his Mistris in Bed together, of his Mistrisses death, and of his being turned out of doors.

When this Quarrel was over, and all things quiet, Tom studied how to be revenged on the Maid, for not acquainting him of his Mistris of his Masters Plot, in talking with his Mistris: Tom at length (in company with his fellow Prentice that was Marry'd, and sometimes he mist him in the night, but never thought of any thing but that he rose to make water, &c. So now he resolved to watch her, and the next night slept very little, till one of the Clock he began to snore, and to know if he were awake or no: Tom perceiving his design, lay still and took not a wink, but seem'd as if he were asleep: the other rejoyced at him so, rose out of his Bed and went to the Maids Bed, staying with her two hours before returned again, where he found Tom (as he thought) asleep. Tom sleeping two or three nights together, observed him very

familia

[illegible] to go to her. But the next night [illegible] he was at Supper, he put Sleeping [illegible] into his Drink, to make him Sleep [illegible] about one of the Clock (the same hour [illegible] he came) he jogged him, to know [illegible] was asleep: When Tom perceived [illegible] asleep, rose and went to his Fellow [illegible] Mistress (but resolved if she spoke, only to [illegible] she lying awake ready to receive him; [illegible] heard him, she desired him to drink [illegible] of Sack, thinking Tom to be her Husband [illegible] when he had drank it up, she received him [illegible] her Arms, embracing him very lovingly, [illegible] remaining two hours enjoying his Heart's [illegible] and then with a parting Kiss [illegible] he arose. When Tom came to his own [illegible] he found his Fellow Prentice fast asleep [illegible] left him. In the morning about Six [illegible] o'clock, Tom rose (leaving him asleep) [illegible] went down (the supposed Maid being up) [illegible] her for the Sack he drank, and the kind [illegible] entertainment she gave him in her Bed. [illegible] heard, said he, was it you? I beg you [illegible] knows, rather to reveal it to any [illegible] to. I am undone! For I thought [illegible] your Fellow Prentice, to whom I am [illegible] No, said he, I'le be even with you [illegible] more he threatned to tell, the more [illegible] Maid him not, proffering him any [illegible]

...better, since you are so willing to have it ...said he, I will take some pity on you, ...you would not of me; fetch me down ... a heavy weight; and she pretended to ...him, but not to lye with him. No, said ... will lye with you, or tell. When she ... she could not prevail, yielded to him; but ... after she proved with child, and left her ... desiring him never to reveal it, which ... promised never to do.

... a month after she was gone, the Mistris ... sick and died, and he out of the Town to a ... after. This Maid being married to ... him, pursues him out of doors that very ... the ring was broken, so that poor Tom ... not tell whether to go, not what to do, ... his last Estate and having Spirits ... being ashamed to go near any of his ... he proving so ungrateful to them in his ...

CHAP.

CHAP. IIII.

Shewing how Tom forsook London, his Lamentation at his departure; of his being entertained by an Old Woman (who was very Rich) in Leeds in Yorkshire; his wife how he promised to marry her fifteen Maids in one day, which he with Child in Fifteen weeks; and he appointed them all to meet him in tichular place; and how he deceived and left the Town.

SOon after Tom's Dear Mistris (being almost in despair) resolved to take Ramble into the Country, hoping to find plopment there; So in order thereunto bibed what necessaries nerr week let forwards on his Journey, when he was about a Mile from London, Pleasant Field upon a green bank, on a Sun-shine day, he sat down and made this Lamentation.

O fortune frown no more as thou hast done,
Let my joys shine bright as doth the sun!
Let me no more upon the rock of fate be tost
Nor think of her whom I have lately lost;
My fortune mistris (which I made my Slave)
Fled from me, for to embrace her grave.
Triumphing grief, I fear my heart will break,
My tears gush forth my *tongue can scarcely speak*;
None ever yet did mourn and weep like me,
Not none, sure yet, had the like destiny;
But hold, in vain I grieve for her that's gone,
I'le go no more to the regardless stone;
Fortune will but smile on me again,
I'le quit my self from all this grief and pain;
Farewell rich *London*, and my Mother too,
For unto both I now must bid adieu.

Tom having taken his leave of his friends till he came to *Leeds* where he was entertained by a Gentleman of his acquaintance, with whom he stayed a week, for he no sooner arrived but he was engaged, and was here glad when he had to do to get off, for the Lady wished to enjoy him not long.

This Gentleman doting on him, gave him any thing he desired, and Tom having her heart as well as her purse at command, after he had taken leave was riding and passing by

her) to lend him some money to set him up having not the power to deny him, he took what money he desired; when he was (though not for her pouse) made perfect with all the Oaths he could, and themselves never so happy as when they were Company, and brought him all the politely could, Tom seeing them in kind to him, stroked their Chins Love Toyes, and one above the rest, Betty, who procured him much pretty Betty imagined Tom loved her. bating a Sixpenny heart before) therefore she would constantly carry him a Legg of as a Turky, or some of her choice dainties. seeing how kind and loving she was, really think he loved her, but resolved Sport her.

There was many other Maids he she like kindness for which his Old perceiving, grew jealous of him. So after Tom had been Killing one before quarrelled with him, threatning to cut of Pegs, and to arrest him for fifteen he owed her. Tom soon quell'd her with some sweet lobing words, and so into favour again: But resolved not ing of the Maids before her face, but to their houses, there being Letters which he had got with Child in Fifteen

to marry them all; sometimes one came
him to marry her, Sometimes another,
pretending sometimes one thing, some-
another, so that he could not marry them.
(that way to blind them) bought a Gold
rich told his Landlady, (if she would
his journey) he would marry her; which
King; to which his old Landlady agreed,
she thought her self sure of him. When
the five pounds appointed her to meet him
a Gate, about half a mile from Leeds, at
of the Clock precisely, and began thence to
garments. But instead of he went to all
Inns, hoping there the King, that he
marry them both, who reserves as much
As if they were already married to him, & gave
them one pair of Sheets between, to
their Inns that night, desiring every
particular to meet him the next morning
the clock exactly, and from thence to go
which they agreed: But yet he
thing of every one, and that with
what Money they could, but he had
Sheets put to bed
believed him, in one Inn
some more, some less according
and when he had got their Money
could, returned home to Bed. The next
Morn

Morning rising very early, desired his L[illegible]
to dress her self to be married, which th[illegible]
went directly to the place appointed.
was gone, Tom made what haste he could
the Town, but not to meet his Land[illegible]
the rest that he had appointed; and after
gone he writ these following Lines,
them under his Land-lady's Pillow.

Farwel old hostess, my smooth flat'ring
Hath prov'd to old for you, tho' I'm but
You had me fire, *you thought*, & that this
I should with licence grant you much de
You that oft times *claim'd debts of me*,
For I resolv'd, my self, to double
Could you so much a fool think me to
To one that's old and cold to bribe
No, the case is far more, left as it doth
For you too oft had me at your com

Before the old Landlady was arriv[illegible]
place appointed, there overtook her first
paled Train with a Red Ribbon under
then another, and another, till eleven had
The old Woman seeing so many pass
with Ribbons under their Chins, wonder
much, till at length she came near the
where she saw all those that had passed by
about her, at which, all laghing and

ing at each other, thinking every mi-
an hour till they see him coming, at length
spy'd a man coming towards them, more
all they could to meet him; but when
saw it was not him, all their hearts were
ady to break together; yet none broke silence,
fear of betraying themselves, for the man
e to them, and said, I ha[illegible] Message to
ther to you, but was charged not to de-
e it till I approach'd the Style, impatient
ting for her Bridegroom; as the others dis-
ey being gathered round about him; he
ed these following Lines out of his Pocket,
y being sent by wanton Tom to be read to

o you poor Lasses, I these lines do send,
telling each of you have been my Friend
brought me Work, some daunc'es for to (trac,
Now hang I should ever prove a cheat:
from your hearts and Maidenheads I (pierc'd,
will laugh? You're all alike dis- (cress'd;
my old Mistress thought this day to Mar- (ry,
for, like you, for me must longer Tarry.

And

And I your Money will as freely spend,
As ever your Maidenheads so me you lend.
Now for your Maiden hands you may crave
Your hearts, your money to return again,
Sigh and lament, but 'twill be all in vain.
Then farewell you, from Leeds *I now am gone,*
And am come hither unto my own.

When I again do hear where he doth dwell,
A Second Part all his Mad Pranks shall tell.

The End of the First Part.